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## DUAL LAYER BEDDING OR SEATING PRODUCT

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to bedding or seating products and more particularly to a bedding or seating product having an interior containing a dual layer of springs.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Traditional box springs have been made which comprise a generally rectangular wooden base including a pair of end rails and a pair of side rails and a plurality of intermediate rails extending from one side rail to the other side rail. A plurality of spaced coil springs arranged in a matrix are supported by the end rails and intermediate rails of the box spring frame. The lower end turns of each of the coil springs are stapled or otherwise secured to the wooden rails of the box spring frame. At the other end of each of the coil springs the upper end turns of the coil springs are secured to a wire grid comprising a plurality of intersecting wires arranged in a crisscrossing pattern. A generally rectangular upper border wire extends around the periphery of the grid. The box spring frame, coil springs and upper grid are encased in an upholstered covering in order to complete the box spring. Such a box spring has uniform characteristics throughout due to the uniform nature of the spring matrix. Other types of bedding or seating products have been made in the same manner.

Bedding or seating products including box springs have also been made with modular springs or other configurations of springs different than conventional coil springs. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 4,068,329 discloses a plurality of modular springs supported by a box spring frame. A conventional wire grid is attached to the tops of the modular springs. Additionally, U.S. Pat. No. 5,231,712 discloses a box spring having a plurality of sinuous-shaped springs supported by the frame members and an upper grid attached to the upper ends of the sinuous springs.

Additionally, bedding or seating products including box spring assemblies have been constructed with a plurality of wooden slats or members in the interior thereof. U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,14,390; 2,70,799 and 2,853,721 all disclose mattresses which include a plurality of solid members extending either lengthwise or widthwise inside the interior of the mattress. These solid members are either wooden or metallic and are located between adjacent convolutions of a row or column of coil springs. However, none of these patents discloses a box spring with a plurality of parallel wooden members located inside the interior of the box spring, a layer of springs underneath the wooden members and a separate layer of springs above the wooden members, thus dividing the box spring into separate layers.

Therefore, it has been one objective of the present invention to provide a bedding or seating product having multiple layers separated by a series of wooden interior slats.

It has been a further objective of the present invention to provide a bedding or seating product such as a box spring having two distinct layers with different firmness characteristics due to the nature of the springs comprising the different layers.

It has been a further objective of the present invention to provide a bedding or seating product such as a box spring having a peripheral edge of a different firmness to that of the interior of the product due to the nature of the springs and their location inside the product.

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## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention of this application which accomplishes these objectives comprises a bedding or seating product having a base comprising a pair of end rails, a pair of side rails and a plurality of intermediate rails. The intermediate rails may extend parallel the side rails, parallel the end rails or both, depending upon the size of the product and the desired application. The rails of the base are preferably wooden, but may be made of other materials.

A plurality of intermediate slats are spaced above the intermediate rails of the base. The intermediate slats are preferably wooden but may be metallic or any other material. A plurality of spacers extend between the intermediate slats and the intermediate rails of the box spring. Each of the spacers is secured to one of the intermediate slats and one of the intermediate rails of the base, thus spacing the intermediate slat directly above the intermediate rail of the base. In one preferred embodiment of the present invention, the spacers are a plurality of sinuous springs extending between the intermediate slats and corresponding intermediate rails of the base. However, the spacers may be other configurations of springs, or alternatively, blocks of foam or any other material.

A plurality of first modular springs are secured to the base around the periphery thereof. These first modular springs are all of approximately the same fixed height, which will be referred to as a first height for purposes of this application. In one preferred embodiment of the present invention, these peripheral modular springs extend upwardly from opposed end rails of the base and are spaced from one another. In this embodiment, each transversely extending internal row of springs between the end rails of the base has at least one first modular spring at each end thereof. These endmost first modular springs are supported by the intermediate rails of the base and extend upwardly therefrom.

Alternatively, rows of first modular springs may extend along the lengths of the opposed side rails of the base, spaced from one another. In this embodiment the internal rails of the base extend longitudinally, each supporting a row of springs. At the end of each row is at least one first modular spring.

A plurality of second modular springs are secured to the intermediate slats and extend upwardly therefrom. Each of these second modular springs is of a fixed second height, has a generally planar upper portion and is secured to one of the intermediate slats. The second height is preferably less than the first height (the height of the first modular springs). When secured to the intermediate slats, the upper portions of each of the second modular springs are generally coplanar with the upper portions of the first modular springs. Thus a generally planar grid may be secured to the upper portions of both sets of modular springs.

A wire grid comprising a plurality of intersecting wires is secured to the upper portions of all of the modular springs of the bedding or seating product. A border wire extends around the periphery of the wire grid. Alternatively, a plastic grid or any other type of structure may be secured to the upper portions of modular springs.

An upholstered covering surrounds the intermediate slats, the base, the spacers, the modular springs and the grid, encompassing the entire interior of the product. Thus, the bedding or seating product of the present invention has an interior divided into two layers by the intermediate slats. The upper layer comprises a plurality of second modular springs and the lower level comprises a series of spacers which are sinuous springs in one embodiment but may be numerous

other items including coil or modular springs. In addition, the periphery of the product comprises a plurality of modular springs. Thus, depending on the firmness characteristics of the modular springs of the upper layer and the spacers of the lower layer, different firmness characteristics may be imparted to the bedding or seating product. These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be more readily apparent from the following drawings.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view partially broken away of a bedding or seating product made in accordance with the present invention, the intermediate slats of the product extending transversely;

FIG. 1A is a perspective view of the uncovered portion of the bedding or seating product illustrated in FIG. 1;

FIG. 2A is a perspective view partially broken away of the row 24f of springs of FIG. 1;

FIG. 2B is a perspective view partially broken away of the row 24b of springs of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3A is a perspective view of one of the first modular springs of the present invention;

FIG. 3B is perspective view of one of the second modular springs of the present invention;

FIG. 3C is a perspective view of one of the sinuous springs of the present invention secured to an intermediate slat; and

FIG. 4 is a perspective view partially broken away of a bedding or seating product made in accordance with the present invention, the product having longitudinally extending intermediate slats.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring to the drawings, and particularly to FIGS. 1 and 1A, there is illustrated a bedding or seating product 10 having a wooden base 12. The base includes a pair of end rails 14 (only one being shown), a pair of side rails 16 (only one being shown) and a plurality of intermediate rails 18 which are generally parallel the end rails 14. In addition, the base 12 may have at least one longitudinally extending support rail 20 which passes generally underneath each of the transversely extending intermediate rails 18. A spring interior or core 22 comprising a plurality of springs, which will be described in more detail below, is supported by the rails of the base. The spring interior 22 comprises a plurality of rows of springs 24a, 24b, 24c, 24d, 24e, 24f . . . In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, the rows of springs 24a-24f . . . are transversely extending. One or more layers of padding 25 are located above the spring interior 22. An upholstered covering 26 surrounds the base 12, the spring interior 22 and the padding 25.

The spring interior 22 is made up of three different types of springs, which are illustrated in FIGS. 3A, 3B and 3C, and a plurality of generally parallel intermediate slats 28 which are located immediately above the intermediate rails 18 of the base 12.

One of these springs is a first modular spring 30, illustrated in FIG. 3A. The first modular spring 30 is made of one piece of wire having end portions 32a, 32b which are welded or otherwise joined together. From the end portions 32a, 32b, the wire extends outwardly along lower portions 34a, 34b until the wire reaches locations 35a and 35b, at which point the wire rises upwardly and curves into convolutions 36a, 36b. The convolutions 36a, 36b terminate at locations 37a, 37b, at which point the wire extends vertically upwardly in

vertical portions 38a and 38b. At locations 39a, 39b the wire turns inwardly and forms colinear upper legs 40a and 40b. At locations 41a and 41b the wire makes a right angle and extends outwardly in segments 42a and 42b. Sections 42a, 42b are connected by linear segment 43. The first modular spring 30 has a generally planar upper portion 44 made up of the segment 43, the legs 40a, 40b and the segments 42a, 42b, all located in plane P<sub>1</sub>. The vertical distance from the lower portions of the modular spring 34a, 34b to the generally planar upper portion 44 of the modular spring H<sub>1</sub> defines the first height of the first modular spring 30.

FIG. 3B illustrates a second type of modular spring 46 utilized in the spring interior 22 of the present invention. Each of these second modular springs 46 is made of one piece of wire and has a generally planar upper portion 48 located in a generally horizontal plane P<sub>2</sub>. The generally planar upper portion 48 comprises an offset 51, a pair of opposed colinear legs 52a and 52b. The offset 50 comprises a central segment 52 and a pair of connecting segments 54a, 54b. The generally planar portion 48 terminates at locations 56a and 56b, at which point the wire extends vertically downwardly a fixed distance to locations 58a and 58b. At locations 58a and 58b the wire extends inwardly along horizontal portions 59a and 59b until the wire reaches locations 60a and 60b, at which point the wire extends downwardly and outwardly in portions 61a and 61b. Portions 61a and 61b each terminate at locations 62a and 62b, at which point the wire turns outwardly in forming portions 63a and 63b, each terminating at locations 64a and 64b. At locations 64a and 64b the wire extends downwardly and diagonally in sections 65a and 65b, each terminating at location 66a and 66b. From location 66a and 66b the wire extends inwardly along lower portions 67a and 67b, each terminating in an end portion 68a, 68b. The end portions 68a and 68b are welded or otherwise secured together.

As illustrated in FIGS. 2A and 2B, which will be described in more detail below, the lower portions 67a and 67b of the second modular springs 46 are adapted to rest upon and be secured to an intermediate slat 28 with staples or any other fasteners. Each of the second modular springs 46 extends upwardly from an intermediate slat whereas each of the first modular springs 30 extends upwardly from the base 12.

Referring now to FIG. 3C, a sinuous spring 70 made of one piece of wire is illustrated secured to one intermediate slat 28 with a staple 72. The intermediate slat 28 has a top surface 74, a bottom surface 76 and a pair of opposed side surfaces 78. Each sinuous spring 70 is configured so as to receive and be secured to one of the intermediate slats 28 with at least one staple 72. Although the staple 72 is illustrated as being located in one position, other locations may be utilized as well. In addition, fasteners other than staples may be used to secured the sinuous springs 70 to the intermediate slats 28.

Each sinuous spring 70 is made of one piece of wire having opposed ends 80a and 80b. Extending inwardly from ends 80a and 80b are linear segments 82a and 82b. Located above linear segments 82a and 82b are linear segments 84a and 84b, linear segments 86a and 86b, and 88a and 88b joined together with arcuate segments 90a, 90b; 92a, 92b and 94a, 94b. Extending upwardly from the end of linear segments 88a, 88b are vertical segments 96a and 96b which abut one of the side surfaces 78 of the intermediate slat 28. The last portion of the sinuous spring 70 is a three-sided generally planar top portion 98 comprising sides 99, 100, 101, each side being a linear segment. The top portion 98 rests upon the upper surface 74 of the intermediate slat 28 and is secured thereto.